

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) A method of controlling the use of a weapon, said method including the steps of:

transmitting from an identification unit that is separate from the weapon, ~~an activation signal that comprises an~~ activation code and a continuous signal after the activation code ~~signal~~ is transmitted;

receiving with a receiver attached to the weapon the activation ~~signal~~ code and then the continuous signal transmitted by the identification unit;

monitoring ~~the signal received by the receiver with a processor attached to the weapon to generate a received signal~~ and, with the processor, placing the weapon in an active state if the ~~received signal includes~~ receiver receives the activation code ~~signal having the activation code~~;

after said step of placing the weapon in the active state, with the processor, monitoring the strength of the ~~received~~ continuous signal;

maintaining the weapon in the active state only if the strength of the ~~received~~ continuous signal monitored by the processor is at or above a minimum signal strength, regardless of ~~the~~ a frequency of the ~~received~~ continuous signal or either the presence/~~absence~~ or absence of the activation code ~~in the received signal~~, to avoid a deactivation of the readiness of the weapon to fire by an interfering transmitter, and

~~inactivating~~deactivating the weapon with the processor if the strength of the ~~received~~continuous signal falls below the minimum strength.

8. (Currently amended) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 7, wherein:

prior to said steps of transmitting the activation code ~~with the activation code signal~~ and the continuous signal from the identification unit, entering into the identification unit an identification code;

with the identification unit, comparing the entered identification code to a ~~stored~~an identification code ~~stored~~ in the identification unit; and

only if the entered identification code is the same as the ~~stored~~ identification code in the identification unit, performing said steps of transmitting the activation code and the continuous signal from the identification unit.

9. (Currently amended) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 8, wherein, in said step of entering ~~an~~the identification code ~~to~~into the identification unit, the identification unit reads biometric data from an individual.

10. (Currently amended) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 8, wherein, said step of entering ~~an~~the identification code ~~to~~into the identification unit is performed by reading fingerprint data for an individual into the identification unit through a fingerprint reader attached to the identification unit.

11. (Currently amended) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 8, wherein, said step of entering ~~an~~the identification code ~~to~~into the identification unit is performed by reading fingerprint data for an individual into

the identification unit through a CCD fingerprint reader attached to the identification unit.

12. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 8, wherein:

a wristband is attached to the identification unit for holding the identification unit to an individual and the identification unit includes a switch for indicating if the wristband is closed; and

the identification unit includes an identification unit processor for performing said step of comparing the entered identification code to the ~~stored~~ identification code in the identification unit and the switch is connected to the identification unit processor for actuating the identification unit processor only when the wristband is closed.

13. (Currently amended) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 8, wherein:
~~in said steps of transmitting from the identification unit the activation code signal and the continuous signal, and of receiving the signal with the receiver, comprises a radio signal comprises the activation code signal and the continuous signal~~ transmitted by the identification unit and received by the receiver; and

said step of monitoring the strength of the ~~received~~ continuous signal is performed by monitoring the strength of the ~~received~~ radio signal.

14. (Currently amended) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 7, wherein:
~~in said steps of transmitting from the identification unit the activation code signal and the continuous signal, and of receiving the signal with the receiver, comprises a radio signal comprises the activation code signal and the continuous~~

~~signal~~ transmitted by the identification unit and received by the receiver; and

said step of monitoring the strength of the ~~received~~continuous signal is performed by monitoring the strength of the ~~received~~ radio signal.

15. (Currently amended) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 7, wherein, ~~in said steps of transmitting from the identification unit the activation code signal and the continuous signal, and of receiving the signal with the receiver, the transmitted and the received signal~~ are selected from ~~the~~a group consisting of infrared signals and ~~ultrasonic~~ultrasound signals.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 7, wherein the continuous signal comprises an uncoded signal.

18. (Currently amended) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 7, including, after the weapon is in the active state, transmitting a readiness signal from the weapon to the identification unit and displaying the state of readiness of the weapon on the identification unit.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) A method for controlling the use of a weapon comprising the steps of:

providing an identification unit that is separate from the weapon, the identification unit including a transmitter, ~~a having a transmitting antenna connected to the transmitter and an identification device~~mechanism;

providing a module on the weapon comprising a receiver ~~with~~having a receiving antenna and a processor, said module being free from a transmitter;

detecting an authorized user with the identification ~~device~~mechanism to authorize operation of the identification unit;

transmitting from the identification unit using the transmitter and the transmitting antenna, upon detecting an authorized user, an activation ~~code~~-signal including an activation code followed by an uncoded signal;

~~monitoring with~~using the receiver ~~and~~having the receiving antenna to detect the activation ~~code~~-signal and the uncoded signal;

placing the weapon in an active state upon receipt of the activation code with the activation ~~code~~-signal;

maintaining the weapon in the active state when the ~~received~~uncoded signal is at or above a minimum strength even ~~if at least one of the detected~~ a frequency received by the receiving antenna is ~~different from the~~ independent of a frequency of the uncoded signal and ~~the activation code signal is not received, the received signal comprising one or more of~~ 1) the activation code signal, 2) the uncoded signal, and 3) ~~another signal from another source~~ an interference signal is received; and

deactivating the weapon if the strength of the ~~received~~uncoded signal is less than the minimum strength.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 20, wherein the uncoded signal comprises an uncoded continuous RF signal and the activation ~~code~~-signal comprises an RF signal.

23. (Currently amended) The method of controlling the use of a weapon Claim 20, the module including a wake-up circuit for the steps of:

activating the processor when the receiver receives the activation ~~code~~-signal, and

deactivating the processor when the received signal has a signal strength less than the minimum signal strength.

24. (Currently amended) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 20, wherein the identification unit is integrated into a wristband, and the identification unit includes a switch for indicating if the wristband is closed, the identification unit detecting an authorized user and transmitting the activation ~~code~~-signal followed by the uncoded signal to place and maintain the weapon in the active state only when the wristband is closed.

25. (Currently amended) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 20, wherein both the activation ~~code~~ signal and the uncoded signal consist of one of infrared energy and ~~ultrasonic~~ultrasound energy.

26. (Currently amended) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 20, including the step of displaying the name or the picture of the authorized user on an ~~indicator of the identification unit~~mechanism.

27-28. (Cancelled)

Amendments to the Drawings

Figure 1 has been amended to now illustrate receiver 25 within the module 20. Figure 3 has been amended to illustrate transmitter 24 within the housing 3.